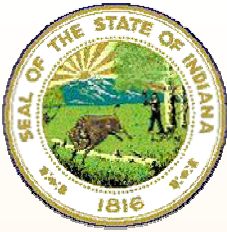


SENATOR SAMUEL SMITH, JR



RESIDENCE

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Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about some of the issues facing legislators as we begin the 114th Indiana General Assembly in January. The four-month long session, by law, must adjourn on or before April 29, 2005. During that time, lawmakers will consider hundreds of proposals and make public policy decisions that will affect Indiana and its citizens for the next several years.

How to properly fund public schools, provide relief for Hoosiers most affected by rising health care costs, enhance economic development initiatives, continue efforts to retrain our workforce and create more jobs are just a few of the issues to be considered as we work together to make Indiana an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

Crafting a new state budget for the next two fiscal years will top the legislative agenda. Although we have managed to maintain solid reserves throughout the national recession, the state is facing a gap between expected spending and projected revenues. The key to managing the budget will be to cut spending by finding new efficiencies, consolidate agencies and eliminate ineffective programs. It is also vitally important that we protect services and funding for education, or Indiana will begin to lose its ability to develop economically and grow our way out of the current fiscal situation.

I would like to request your input on the enclosed survey, which deals with legislation likely to be considered. I hope you will take time to complete the survey online or return it to me by mail. Once all responses have been tallied, you will receive the survey results.

Additionally, you will find information on how to get involved and stay informed. Subscribe to receive my legislative updates online or return the form on the back page to receive them by mail. Log on to the General Assembly's web site at www.in.gov/legislative/ to obtain full bill texts and committee hearing information. You can also contact me for legislative information or if you are experiencing any problems with which I can be of assistance.

As your State Senator, it is my job to communicate to the General Assembly the issues that matter most to the citizens of Senate District 2. Most of the bills that become law will in some way affect all of us, our families and our communities. Please contact me by phone, mail or email, and let me know your thoughts and concerns. The legislative process works best when citizens get involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel Smith Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 2

INCLUDING EAST CHICAGO, CALUMET TOWNSHIP AND PORTIONS OF
GARY, GRIFFITH, HIGHLAND, HAMMOND AND MERRILLVILLE

Development at the Gary/Chicago International Airport

Northwest Indiana has seen significant advances with the Gary/Chicago International Airport over the past year. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently conducted a review and reported a favorable environmental recommendation that may result in additional federal transportation funds for the airport. Additionally, construction is underway at the airport for a Joint Armed Forces Reserve Center. However, further development is essential for both transportation needs and job growth in Northwestern Indiana.

The FAA is planning to cut flights at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport by 20 percent through next April. The Gary/Chicago Airport should play an integral role in resolving the congested airspace in the Chicago metropolitan area. It is also interesting to note that at 7,000 feet, a runway at the Gary/

Chicago Airport is already 450 feet longer than Midway's longest runway, and the Gary Airport can land any plane that Midway is now handling.

The Gary/Chicago Airport is projected to have serviced more than 45,000 passengers in 2004 and to have moved over 3,500 tons of cargo. Our airport is obviously ready to move forward, and with continued business support it will continue to grow.

This airport is an economic opportunity that we must seize upon for both Lake County and Indiana. It will bring much needed jobs to the region and help raise the prestige of Gary. During his recent campaign, Governor-elect Daniels pledged his support of our airport. I look forward to working with his administration for the continued expansion of the Gary/Chicago International Airport.

Serve as a Senate Page!

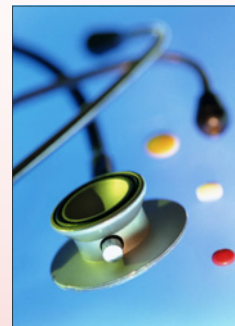
Students between the ages of 12 and 18 may apply to serve as Pages while the Legislature is in session from January 4 through April 29. This day off school is considered an excused absence.



Students interested in serving in the State Senate should contact my office to apply. Write to me at 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, send an email to S2@in.gov or call toll-free at 800-382-9467 and ask for extension 2-9847.

Focus on: **HEALTH CARE**

The rising costs of health care will undoubtedly receive much attention this session. As many as 600,000 Hoosiers are without health insurance coverage. Many of these individuals are employed by small businesses that cannot afford to provide coverage.



A governor's task force has been developing a plan designed to reduce the growing number of Hoosiers with no health insurance. The "Hoosier Health Plan" recommends the pooling of small businesses and individuals who are self-employed to provide them with affordable health care under a bulk-purchasing plan with competitive rates. The state received federal funding to support the startup of the program, but it will be up to the new administration and the General Assembly to determine how to use the grant for pilot programs.

Being able to provide quality, affordable health insurance to many of Indiana's uninsured is more than a health care or insurance issue. It also relates to economic development and jobs. The majority of

***"As many as
600,000 Hoosiers
are without health
insurance coverage."***

Indiana businesses are small, and their success is being threatened by rising health care costs. Many small businesses are finding it

increasingly difficult to keep employees because of the financial burden health care has become.

Legislators are also expected to consider legislation to expand the state's new bulk prescription drug purchasing program, which was established by the 2004 General Assembly. The program created a pool of more than 400,000 state, local and public university employees to increase the state's buying power and the ability to negotiate lower prescription drug costs. Under a bill to be introduced in 2005, legislators will be considering the possibility of expanding the pool to include small businesses, county hospitals and non-profit organizations.

2005 Legislative Survey

Feel free to have another family member respond to questions in column #2.

Respondent
#1

Respondent
#2

You may also complete this survey on-line at www.in.gov/S2

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Should tolls on the Indiana Toll Road be increased to generate funding for the Gary airport? | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Should riverboat gaming revenue be utilized for property tax relief? | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do you support legislation that would make permanent the two percent cap on Lake County property taxes implemented by former Governor Kernan? | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Should Indiana join several other states in a new drug-import program to make cheaper prescription drugs available from Canada and Europe, despite a federal ban on the imports? | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Currently in Indiana, low-income pregnant women receive Medicaid assistance. Soon after giving birth, this assistance is terminated for the mother only, leaving her without the aid of family planning services. Statistics indicate that without this assistance, many will soon become pregnant again. This often leads to unhealthy pregnancies and unhealthy babies, and escalates Medicaid costs. Considering these facts, would you support legislation that would allow for the extension of Medicaid assistance for family planning services? | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) program is currently given in the fall to students in Grades 3, 6, 8 and 10 to allow teachers to address what students need to learn. Some believe the test should be moved to the spring as a measure of what students have learned. Opponents feel this leaves little time for student improvement. Would you support legislation to move the ISTEP+ test to the spring? | 6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Would you support legislation to authorize the use of public funding to provide vouchers for children to attend private schools? | 7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional Comments: _____

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your opinions are very important to me!



State Senator Samuel Smith, Jr.

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Stay Informed

To keep you up-to-date on the many issues being considered by the Indiana General Assembly, I will be distributing brief updates discussing the challenges we face here in Indiana. If you are interested in receiving these periodic updates, please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Please send issue updates by mail to my home address.
- ☐ Please send issue updates via Email. Subscribe on line now at s2@in.gov or clearly print your Email address here _____
- ☐ I am not interested at this time.

If address is different than above, please print corrections clearly or affix mailing label here.

Place
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State Senator Samuel Smith, Jr.
State Capitol
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis IN 46204-2785

Smith '05 Legislative Survey Response

Please tape or staple here. Thank you.